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(300) SECOND NIGHT LEAD POWERS
WASHINGTON, FEB. 13 (AP)-NBC TELEVISION COMMENTATOR DAVID BRINKLEY
SAID TONIGHT FRANCIS GARY POWERS HAS CLAIMED THAT HIS U2 SPY PLANE
HAD MECHANICAL TROUBLE BEFORE IT WAS DOWNED IN RUSSIA IN MAY 1960.
BRINKLEY SAID ALSO POWERS HAS SAID HE WAS RELEASED BY THE RUSSIANS
AND HIS RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY OVER THE WEEKEND, THAT HE WAS KEPT IN
ISOLATION FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS BEFORE BEING PUT ON TRIAL.
THERE WAS NO COMMENT FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES ON BRINKLEY'S STATE-
MENTS, MADE DURING A NEWS SHOW ON THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO. TV
NETWORK.

BRINKLEY SAID POWERS STILL WAS AT SOME SECRET PLACE ON THE EAST
COAST, "BUT WE HAVE...LEARNED TWO THINGS HE HAS TOLD SINCE THE RUSSIANS
LET HIM GO." HE CONTINUED:

"ONE IS THAT HE DID HAVE MECHANICAL TROUBLE WITH HIS U2 AIRPLANE
AND WAS FORCED TO DESCEND TO A MUCH LOWER ALTITUDE, WHERE HE WAS IN
REACH OF RUSSIAN GROUND FIRE.

"FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE HIS PLANE CAME DOWN, OTHER U2 FLIGHTS HAD
PASSED OVER THE SOVIET UNION AT VERY HIGH ALTITUDES AND THE RUSSIANS,
THOUGH THEY KNEW THEY WERE THERE, WERE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.

"EXACTLY HOW LOW HE WAS WHEN THE RUSSIANS GOT TO HIM STILL IS NOT
KNOWN.

"THE OTHER IS THAT NO MORE THAN THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE 1960
TRIAL HE WAS KEPT IN TOTAL ISOLATION. GIVEN WHAT IS CALLED A PSYCHO-
LOGICAL CONDITIONING, INCLUDING GIVING DRUGS, BEFORE HE WAS PUT ON THE
STAND TO ANSWER THE RUSSIANS' QUESTIONS."

POWERS HAS BEEN IN COUNTRY SINCE HIS RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY, FOL-
LOWING HIS EXCHANGE IN BERLIN ON SATURDAY FOR SOVIET SPY RUDOLF ABEL.
PRESUMABLY HE HAS BEEN UNDERGOING QUESTIONING BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY OFFICIALS.

TWO MORE SENATORS SUGGESTED TODAY THAT HE BE CALLED BEFORE A CONGRES-
SIONAL COMMITTEE IF NECESSARY TO LEARN THE FULL STORY OF HIS CAPTURE.

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON X X X ETC., 3RD GRAF PVS AS1WX.
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